



The Thoreau Society Bulletin

ISSN 0040-6406

Number 215

Spring 1996

A Tribute to Walter Harding

Elizabeth Witherell

[Editor's Note: We grieve to announce that Walter Harding died on 10 April 1996 from complications resulting from a stroke. With Walt's death the Society lost its founder and most enthusiastic supporter. The world lost the best and most prolific student of the life and writings of Thoreau. Those of us who enjoyed the great pleasure of knowing Walt lost a dear friend. A memorial service for Walt was held at SUNY-Geneseo on Sunday afternoon, 14 April. On hand to represent the Society were Elizabeth Witherell, our president-elect; our secretary, Bradley P. Dean; and Board member Robert Galvin. Other Society members present at the service were Raymond Borst, Ken Harber, and past-president W. Stephen Thomas. The tribute that Witherell read follows.

The Harding family has asked that contributions to The Thoreau Society in Walt's memory be used to buy books and research materials for the Society's collection. Donations may be made to the Walter Harding Memorial Fund, and sent to The Thoreau Society, 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773.]

As you all know, Henry Thoreau was Walt's passion. Thoreau writes, in *Walden*, of his search for a hound, a bay horse, and a turtledove, which he says he lost long ago and has been on the trail of ever since. These symbolic animals have a meaning so profound for Thoreau, so central to his being that he can't express it in a few words. As Thoreau searched for the hound, the bay horse,



Photo by Ron Pretzer

Walter Harding 1917-1996

and the turtledove, Walt searched for Thoreau, always on the trail of this man who had inspired him and informed some of the most important choices in his life.

Both Henry and Walt sent reports back from the field as they searched. Henry's were in the form of his lectures and essays and books and his journal, all exploring his central issues, How shall we live? What does it mean to be human? What is nature and how are we a part of it? Walt's reports from the field were his many articles and books and conversations about Thoreau.

In this quest for Henry Thoreau, Walt learned more about the man and his time and place than anyone now living, and he shared freely what he discovered. Some of the contributions that he made to the

world's understanding of Thoreau were formal and academic. He published over thirty books, including what is still the best comprehensive biography of Thoreau, *The Days of Henry Thoreau*. With Carl Bode, he produced the most complete edition of Thoreau's correspondence that we have now, and just last year, on the 150th anniversary of Thoreau's move to Walden Pond, Houghton Mifflin brought out the most fully

annotated version of *Walden* available, an expanded version of Walt's first annotated *Walden* that appeared in 1962. Walt published over seventy articles, and

continued on page 2

In this Issue

- 4 Framingham's Harmony Grove**
.....Stephen W. Herring
- 5 1996 Annual Meeting**
- 6 Notes & Queries**
- 7 Additions to Thoreau Bibliography**
.....Thomas S. Harris

The Thoreau Society Bulletin is published quarterly by The Thoreau Society.

Board of Directors:

Kathi Anderson; Kenneth Basile; Helen M. Bowdoin; Bradley P. Dean, **Secretary**; Robert Galvin; Joseph Gilbert; Ronald W. Hoag, **Treasurer**; Wesley Mott; Joel Myerson, **President**; Robert Sattelmeyer; Daniel Shealy; Elizabeth Witherell

Membership Services Coordinator Tom Harris
Merchandise Manager Stephanie Kornfeld
Educational Coordinator Anne McGrath
Graphic Designer/Illustrator Karen Merrill
Shop Staff Jon Fadiman

Jason Giannetti
 Charles Morin

Intern Alicia Lee

The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an international not-for-profit organization founded to stimulate interest in the life, works and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau.

To fulfill its mission, the Society:

- ❖ conducts an educational and public outreach program in collaboration with the Concord Museum in Concord, (508) 369-9763. Please call the Museum's Director of Education, Jayne Gordon, to schedule a presentation.
- ❖ owns and operates The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond, a visitor's center with a bookstore and gift shop. The Shop is located at the Walden Pond State Reservation.
- ❖ operates and develops programming for The Thoreau Institute, in partnership with the Isis Fund/Walden Woods Project.
- ❖ sponsors various Thoreau-related educational programs and excursions throughout the year.

Membership in the Society includes subscriptions to its two publications, *The Concord Saunterer* (published each Autumn) and *The Thoreau Society Bulletin* (published quarterly). Society members receive a 10% discount on all merchandise purchased from The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond and advance notice about Society programs, including the Annual Meeting held in Concord each July. Contact The Thoreau Society administrative offices in Lincoln, Massachusetts, for membership information.

The Thoreau Society Directory

Communications relating to *The Concord Saunterer* should be addressed to Ronald Wesley Hoag, The Thoreau Society, Inc., Department of English, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, U.S.A.; tel: (919)328-6580; fax: (919) 328-4889; e-mail: enhoag@ecum.cis.ecu.edu.

Inquiries about merchandise (including books and mail-order items) should be directed to Stephanie Kornfeld, Merchandise Manager, The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond, 915 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742-4511, U.S.A.; tel: (508)287-5477; fax: (508)287-5620; e-mail: tshop@aol.com.

Membership questions should be directed to Tom Harris, e-mail: ttsharris@aol.com. Communications regarding *The Thoreau Society Bulletin* should be directed to Bradley P. Dean, e-mail: endean@ecum.cis.ecu.edu. All other inquiries should be directed to The Thoreau Society, Inc., 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773-3004, U.S.A.; tel: (617) 259-9411; fax: (617)259-1470; e-mail: tsattip@aol.com.

The Thoreau Society Bulletin

Editor, Bradley P. Dean

Associate Editor, Thomas S. Harris

Graphic Designer, Karen Merrill, e-mail: hollis20@aol.com

Harding, from page 1

hundreds of book reviews. He taught classes and supervised theses and dissertations; he lectured on Thoreau in Japan, Iceland, Norway, France, Spain, and Germany; for almost twenty years he directed summer seminars in Concord that inspired new generations of Thoreauvians.

Walter Harding brought Henry Thoreau to more people around the world than any other single individual.

Some of his contributions were less formal, though no less important—he exchanged information about Thoreau, Concord, and the Transcendentalists in letters and phone calls, and in conversations over doughnuts and coffee in the basement of the First Parish Church and over beer at the Colonial Inn in Concord. Walt was always available to those who shared his passion for Henry and everything about him. Anyone who talked Thoreau with him will remember his taking out a small spiral notebook to make a memo of something he wanted to keep track of or track down, or to read a memo to you about something he'd just learned from someone else that he thought you'd want to know. After watching him do this on several occasions, I got myself a little notebook, too, and last night I smiled to myself when another Thoreauvian, a graduate of several of Walt's Concord seminars, took out his small spiral notebook to record something we were discussing.

Walter Harding brought Henry Thoreau to more people around the world than any other single individual. He did this not only by writing books and articles, but also by founding the two most significant organizations focused on Thoreau—The Thoreau Society and the Thoreau Edition. He started the Thoreau Society in 1941 to give those interested in Thoreau an opportunity to meet and to share their enthusiasm. His mentor at the University of North Carolina, Raymond Adams, who ended up presiding over the Society for its first fifteen years, did not

have high hopes when Walt suggested a meeting of Thoreauvians. I talked with Raymond's widow, Charlotte, yesterday about this event, and she said bluntly, "Raymond poured cold water on Walt." But it didn't stop Walt from inviting all the Thoreauvians he knew to meet at the site of the Thoreau house at Walden Pond on July 12, Thoreau's birthday, in 1941. I'll read you Walt's own account of what happened.

It was pouring rain when [the Reverend Roland D.] Sawyer [another Thoreauvian who "had long wished to organize an annual 'Thoreau Birthday Mecca'"] and I arrived at the pond on July 12, and the only person there was a thoroughly soaked Boy Scout, who told us that the meeting had been moved to the D.A.R. Hall in town. There, to our amazement, we found the hall filled and people peering in the doors and windows because they couldn't crowd in. Raymond Adams, Roland Sawyer, Odell Shepard, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana, among others, read brief papers. A motion I made to form a society was passed unanimously, and Raymond Adams was elected president, Dr. Fred S. Piper of Lexington, vice-president, and I, secretary-treasurer. The luncheon was followed by a showing of the Herbert Gleason hand-colored slides of Thoreau Country. By that time the rain had ceased and the sun was baking us all, thus starting the tradition of being either soaked or baked—or both—at the Annual Meeting. Approximately a hundred were there, most of whom became members for one dollar apiece. ("Preface: Recollections of the Early Days of the Thoreau Society," in *Thoreau's World and Ours: A Natural Legacy*, ed. Edmund A. Schofield and Robert C. Baron [Golden, Colo.: North American Press], p. xiv).

Walt was secretary of the Thoreau Society for fifty years, retiring in 1991 at the jubilee celebration. He was president,

continued on page 3

Harding, from page 2

too, but only for one year. It is absolutely characteristic of Walt that he would devote himself to the jobs that kept things going behind the scenes—maintaining the Thoreau bibliography and putting out *The Thoreau Society Bulletin* and seeing to it that the Annual Meeting in Concord came off. His retirement as Secretary did not mean the end of his participation; even after his first stroke, he kept up the Thoreau bibliography—the record of all that was being written about Thoreau—deciding only last fall that he was no longer up to it.

And he and Marjorie and the family participated in and contributed to the Thoreau Society in another critical way last year. They decided to donate Walt's magnificent, unique research collection of materials about Thoreau to the Society, to be housed in a new library and made widely accessible. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance to the Society of either the collection or the decision. The Society is growing right now, in ways that some members find painful: Walt and Marjorie's steadfast support, as indicated by their donation, reassured many people. Again, though, it is characteristic of Walt that he wanted to guarantee that Henry was available to as many people as possible. Just as important, his collection will make it possible for future Thoreauvians who will never have the opportunity to meet Walt to know him in a way, through his correspondence and his papers, and through the books and other materials he gathered.

Walt also started the Thoreau Edition, more formally known as *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*, in 1965. Its purpose is to make available accurate texts of all of Thoreau's writings, and when it's complete, it will include thirty volumes. Walt did all of the hard work that was necessary to get such an enterprise up and running—negotiating funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, selecting editors, collecting the material on which the work is based, establishing policies and methods, arranging for publication—and he ran it for eight years. After resigning as Editor-in-Chief, he remained an active member of the project's Editorial Board. I'm currently in charge of that project, and even during times when

Walt and I were not in close touch, I felt his support. My great regret is that we didn't finish the new edition of *Correspondence*, which he did so much work on, for Walt to see and enjoy. But I know he was pleased that the products of the edition that he founded—eleven volumes so far of Thoreau's books and essays and *Journal* that are based on the original manuscript or first printings—are changing the face of Thoreau scholarship.

In addition to these critical contributions to the continuing study of Henry Thoreau, Walt brought something less tangible but perhaps even more important. His modesty and his openness were examples to us all, and as we in the Society and on the Edition learned to work with one another we discovered the

*There's an old
saying that
when an elder dies,
a library is lost,
and we've lost a
whole library
of Thoreauviana
with Walt's passing.*

benefits of setting aside or at least toning down our egos; from both groups many of us have drawn life-long friends, and we have Walt to thank for that. When you think about the kind of crankiness and negative individuality that a personality like Thoreau's can foster, you realize what an accomplishment this is. The task of leading Thoreauvians, academics or devotees, is like herding cats, but whatever frustrations Walt may have expressed privately to Marjorie, he carried out this task gently and gracefully and effectively for over 50 years. When I mentioned this to Charlotte Adams, she said simply, "It was his nature, hon."

Walt will never be replaced, in our hearts or in Thoreau studies. There's an old saying that when an elder dies, a library is lost, and we've lost a whole library of Thoreauviana with Walt's passing. Walt shared as much as he could, but still so much went with him. He was closer to Thoreau in time than younger

Thoreauvians can be: he was only two long generational steps away from the man himself. In addition, his grasp of information about Thoreau and his ability to combine it to create a picture of Thoreau are unequalled. As Kathi Anderson, of the Walden Woods Project, said to me, "There will never be anybody else like Walt."

I've spoken with a number of Thoreauvians in the past few days, and one thing we all share besides a deep sense of loss is that we have something quite particular that we still want to say to him or ask him about—one enjoyed a recent article of his but hadn't gotten around to letting him know, another has a question about an aspect of Thoreau's personality that only he can answer. We were all looking forward to seeing him this summer in Concord, and knowing Walt, I'm sure he was looking forward to seeing us. We can no longer share Thoreau with him; the best tribute we can offer to Walt is to follow his example and continue to share Thoreau with one another.

But it won't be quite the same, because Walt himself won't be there. We shall miss this sweet and generous man whose passion to know Thoreau and help others to know him guided his life. Walt was a pleasure to be with; he was always looking forward, which is not always the case with those who study the past. Perhaps this is because he was not actually studying the past, but instead was learning about another human being who was almost alive to him. Certainly his interest in Thoreau seemed a continual source of excitement and renewal for him, and he passed on his enthusiasm as he shared information. Gerry Robbins, whose husband Roland discovered and excavated the site of Thoreau's house at the pond, met Walt in 1945, and she said to me, "He never changed: I always saw in him the boy I first met in Concord."

Henry Thoreau will never be better served than he was by Walter Harding. Walt accepted his foibles calmly, without harsh judgment, as he did those of the living people he dealt with. He was a rare soul, and we will all miss him.



The Halcyon Days of Framingham's Harmony Grove

Stephen W. Herring

[Editor's Note: On the Fourth of July 1854, just a month before the publication of *Walden*, Thoreau delivered his lecture "Slavery in Massachusetts" at Harmony Grove in Framingham, Massachusetts, before the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. Bradley P. Dean and Ronald Wesley Hoag have recently published a narrative version of this event (see Dean and Hoag, "A Calendar of Thoreau's Lectures Before *Walden*," *Studies in the American Renaissance* 1995, ed. Joel Myerson [Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1995], pp. 214-22). Mr. Herring is the Town Historian of Framingham, Massachusetts.]

In the 1850s Framingham's Harmony Grove was as well known and popular a tourist destination as Concord's Walden Pond State Reservation is today. The town of Framingham, located about twelve miles southwest of Concord, lies at the mid-point between the cities of Boston and Worcester, making it a natural center for commerce, transportation, and industry for eastern Massachusetts. When the Boston and Worcester Railroad (later the Boston and Albany) cut across the southern end of Framingham in the 1830s, many opportunities were created for alert Yankee businessmen, and one of the more unusual of these enterprises was a commercial recreational park called Harmony Grove.

The bustling commercial village that sprang up around the new railroad became known as South Framingham. There were, however, many rural and scenic areas nearby, especially around Farm Pond, actually a 193-acre lake located northwest of the railroad depot. In 1846 Edwin Eames bought up several acres of wooded land on the east side of Farm Pond and set about to make it into a desirable place for locals and city folk to enjoy a country outing. There was an open-lawn area for playing "rounders," an early form of baseball, and where concessionaires could set up booths and tents; a wooded area with swings and seats for romantic strolling and picnic parties; lakeside boating and sailing facilities; the Grove House, a building with a sixty-foot piazza, a dining hall, and a dance pavilion; and, most importantly for our local and



View of Harmony Grove, South Framingham, MA from an 1852 issue of Gleason's Pictorial Home Companion.

national history, an amphitheater for large outdoor meetings and rallies.

It was the Harmony Grove amphitheater, claimed to be "one of the most beautiful and perfect natural amphitheaters to be found in the United States," that attracted the attention of the organizers of large-scale public events. According to an 1853 plot plan, the amphitheater was an elliptical depression in the ground measuring about 250 feet long and 150 feet wide. It was set up with rows of semi-circular benches in front of a raised speaker's platform. The benches could seat a thousand people, and there was standing room for many more.

Convenient access to the Grove via railroad was enhanced by a spur line that ran from the depot directly onto the grounds. An 1852 issue of *Gleason's Pictorial Home Companion* contains an illustration of Harmony Grove showing the arrival of a train, surrounded by scenes of people enjoying the many activities to be found there. The Grove House rises in the distance above the trees, but the amphitheater, which was just to the north of the house, is not part of this picturesque tableaux.

Harmony Grove was often reserved for meetings of religious societies and Sabbath schools, but the Fourth of July

was always set aside for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. While their annual meetings continued through the 1850s and into the Civil War years, they reached their peak at the sweltering gathering of 1854 when William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Henry David Thoreau, and others established the extreme agenda of the abolitionist movement in a dramatic fashion with Garrison's defiant burning of a copy of the U.S. Constitution. That event sent shock waves throughout the nation and would join John Brown's raid, Bleeding Kansas, the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and the Dred Scott decision as one of the major milestones on the road to Civil War.

It naturally followed that in 1860 Harmony Grove was the site of political rallies for the election of Abraham Lincoln. Such meetings were addressed frequently by Governor John Andrew, and Senators Charles Sumner and Henry Wilson.

Despite the end of slavery and the end of the Civil War, Harmony Grove's usefulness as a rallying place for popular causes continued for several years. Julia Ward Howe, whose "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was first sung in public at a Framingham church in 1862, helped organize a women's suffrage meeting at

Harmony Grove, from page 4

the Grove in 1871. General Benjamin Butler's political career suffered a setback in 1873 when he was invited to speak at a temperance rally at Harmony Grove but refused to take a position on the question of prohibition.

Harmony Grove's popularity as a meeting place and playground declined in the late 1870s. That single railroad spur of the 1850s grew into busy lines going north to Clinton, Fitchburg, West Concord, and Lowell. Train yards and an engine house encroached on the tranquility of the Grove. Religious societies found a new outdoor meeting place on the west side of Farm Pond, where they established the New England Chautauqua, a well-known summer retreat that lasted well into the twentieth century.

In the 1890s the old Harmony Grove land was subdivided for dozens of house lots. Edgar Potter, a local historian who wrote of his memories of Harmony Grove in an 1896 paper, lamented, "What a pity this could not have been preserved as a people's forum." But economic necessity prevailed over historical sentiment then as it often does today. What was once Harmony Grove is now occupied by about six square blocks of aging homes and commercial properties, indistinguishable from many parts of the downtown Framingham area.

One humble reminder of the previous and illustrious life of that neighborhood is a steel plate set on a stone marker at one of the subdivision street corners, erected in 1913 by the Framingham Historical Society. Engraved on the plate is the following inscription:

1850-1875

HARMONY GROVE

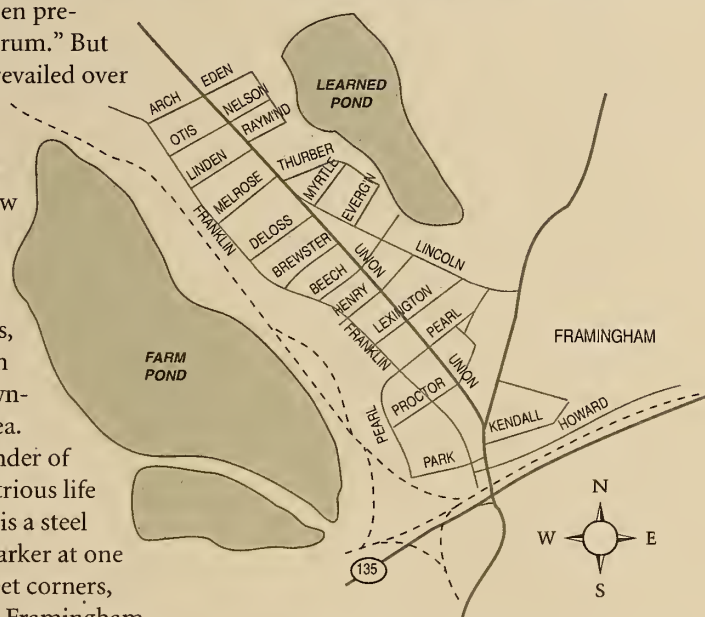
Anti-Slavery Rostrum

Gatherings here led the agitation which resulted in the abolition of slavery in America

The site of the amphitheater is within one of the square blocks created by the subdivision, and if you drive around that block today, it is very easy to see the

ground sloping down, in spite of the driveways, parking areas, and garages that cover it. It is not so easy, however, to imagine the tall pines of Harmony Grove and the stirring oratory of Garrison, Phillips, Thoreau, and others that sweltering and eventful Fourth of July in 1854.

If you want to visit: Framingham is accessible from exits 12 and 13 of the Massachusetts Turnpike. Downtown Framingham, previously known as South Framingham, is at the junction of state routes 126 and 135. The site of Harmony Grove lies between Farm Pond and Union Avenue, the main road connecting Framingham Center on Route 9 with downtown Framingham. It is bounded on the north by Beech Street and on the south by Pearl Street, and is traversed by Lexington Street, Henry Street, and Franklin Street. The Historical Society marker is on a retaining wall at the southwest corner of Henry Street and Franklin Street. The block encompassing the



amphitheater is bounded by Union Avenue, Henry Street, Franklin Street, and Beech Street; the depression is most visible from Beech Street. On the opposite side of Union Avenue is the Danforth Museum of Fine Art, and further east on Lexington Street is the Framingham Public Library.



The Thoreau Society 1996 Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting this year will be held in Concord, Massachusetts, from Thursday, 11 July, to Sunday, 14 July. The first function of the meeting will be dinner at the Concord Academy Thursday evening at 6 p.m., followed by a social at the Academy from 8 to 10 p.m. Breakfasts will be served Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Academy; and dinners will be served at the Academy those three evenings from 6 to 7 p.m., with a special two-hour performance by Ron Pesha and Jeffrey Hyatt immediately after the Friday evening dinner.

The Concord Program will conduct special walking tours of Concord for Society members from 10 a.m. until noon Friday, and from 1:30 to 5:30 that afternoon Joe Gilbert and Dave Ganoe will offer canoe trips on Walden Pond.

Malcolm Ferguson will host coffee and donuts in the vestry of the First Parish Meetinghouse from 8 to 9 a.m. Saturday morning. The Business Meeting will be conducted in the Main Hall of the First Parish from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. During the Meeting Joel Myerson will deliver his presidential address, "Thoreau in Cyberspace," and Lawrence Buell will deliver the keynote address, "Who Owns Thoreau?" Immediately after the Business Meeting, Molly Davidson and her crew will serve lunch in the First Parish vestry. In a break with tradition, we will not have a Thoreau Quiz this year; instead, after the luncheon members will have the opportunity to share with one another their memories of our late Founding Secretary, Walter Harding.

Saturday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. members will be able to participate in one of the two concurrent panels that will be convened at the Concord Academy. To commemorate the sesquicentennial of Thoreau's ascent of Mount Katahdin, Ron Hoag will moderate a panel that will consider "The 'Ktaadn' Question: What the Mountain Said" (other panelists: Brad Dean, Steven Fink, Bob Sattelmeyer, and Richard Schneider). The other panel, sponsored by the Emerson Society and moderated by Dan Shealy (with John McAleer and Robert D. Richardson, Jr.),

continued on page 6

Annual Meeting, from page 5

will discuss "Emerson and Biography." Members who do not care to attend either of the two panels can join Joe Gilbert and Dave Ganoe for canoe trips on the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Marcia Moss will conduct another of her tours of the Thoreau treasures in the Concord Free Public Library from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, and The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond will host a book signing and social hour Saturday from 4:30 to 6 p.m., with free shuttle service provided from the Concord Academy. Sterling Delano will deliver the Saturday evening talk this year beginning at 8 p.m. at the Academy. His topic will be "Concord and Brook Farm: Transit between Celebrated Communities."

Walter Brain will lead a walk up Pine Hill (between Walden Pond and the Thoreau Institute) Sunday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Rick Delano will lead a tour of Brook Farm from 1 to 4 that afternoon (bus transportation provided with registration).

Flyers announcing these activities and explaining the registration costs and procedures were mailed to members some weeks ago. Deadline for all registrations is 1 July. If members have questions or comments about the annual meeting or about any of the registration procedures, they should contact Tom Harris at Society headquarters in the Thoreau Institute, 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773; tel: (617) 259-9411; fax: (617) 259-1470; e-mail: TTS Harris@aol.com.



**"I have always
been regretting that
I was not as wise
as the day I
was born."**

**Walden
Henry David Thoreau**

Notes & Queries

- ✦ The Thoreau Society now has "business" cards with membership information available for members who wish to carry them. Wherever you go, you are likely to find a Thoreauvian. These cards are a convenient way to let them know about the Society.
- ✦ Back issues of *The Thoreau Society Bulletin* and *The Concord Saunterer* are available through The Thoreau Society office in Lincoln. We do not have an index for these publications; however, we are working on one.
- ✦ A member asked in *TSB* 211 (Spring/Summer 1995) whether Thoreau's work was read at either of the wakes held following the death of Edward Abbey in 1989. A friend at the Wildlands Project in Arizona tells us that he does not recall hearing any Thoreau material read. He also asked Abbey's friend Dave Foreman and Abbey's widow, Clarke, but neither of them remembered hearing Thoreau material at either of the two wakes. It is worth noting that Abbey writes another journal entry regarding his own burial instructions three years after the entry referred to in *TSB* 211. In this entry (*Confessions of a Barbarian*, pp. 318-319), Abbey does not mention Thoreau specifically in his plans for a wake. Instead, he makes a more general request for "friends, beer, bourbon, music, gunfire, poetry, loving."
- ✦ Contributions to help save Thoreau's birthplace should be sent to: Save the Thoreau Birthplace Foundation, P.O. Box 14, Concord, MA 01742.
- ✦ Society member and past president Tom Blanding is currently leading an eight-week seminar on Thoreau's political, anti-slavery, and reform writings. The seminar is sponsored by the Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts in Concord.
- ✦ The 18th Annual New England Environmental Conference was held at Tufts University on 16-17 March 1996, and the theme of the Conference was "Faith in a Seed," the title of the Thoreau book published by Island Press/Shearwater Books in 1993. In a pamphlet titled *NEEC '96 News* and under the title "Some Thoughts on the

Theme for NEEC '96," the Conference organizers explained the rationale for using the Thoreau title as the theme for the Conference:

Seeds of care and commitment for the environment lie deep in the character and tradition of the Northeast. These seeds grow in New England's mountains, forests, rivers, floodplains, and seashores, transported by its wildlife, borne aloft by its air. Their roots reach back past Thoreau to the earliest Native Americans; their branches stretch out to future generations.

Recently the seeds of environmentalism have encountered an uncertain, even inhospitable climate. Laws protecting our nation's health and environment are under attack. Reasons for our environmental problems are increasingly daunting and complex, funds for restoration and clean-up increasingly scarce. How can New England environmentalism best keep faith in its seeds?

- ✦ On the front flyleaf of the Summer 1995 *The Gettysburg Review* (vol. 8, no. 3), the editor displayed a postcard he had received "from Thaddeus Curry On the Appalachian Trail. The postcard, which is dated "Saturday, 6 May 95," reads: "I'm sitting here in Damascus, Virginia, trying hard not to listen to a guy mimic a Scottish person—his accent is like chewing wet shoe leather. Now someone else is reading Thoreau out loud—how cheesy!!! I'm living a life more full than he ever did; I don't need to hear his blather to feel in touch with myself and nature. People spend too much time memorizing other people's life experiences, and not enough time experiencing life for themselves. In other words, I think it's silly to have a copy of *Life in the Woods* when one is living in the woods." On the front of the postcard Curry inscribed the following mantra: "RACISM • SPEED • SEXISM • DRUGS • SEX • POLITICAL CORRECTNESS • THEFT • STUPIDITY • MENTAL ILLNESS • MIGHT MAKES RIGHT • COMMERCIALISM • MONEY • GREED—LIFE ON THE TRAIL Oh so simple And Uncorrupted!"

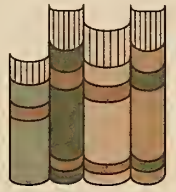
- ✦ Bob Hudspeth is now actively working as co-editor of the Princeton Edition of Thoreau's *Correspondence*. Any Society members with queries should address him at the Department of English, University of Redlands, Redlands, CA 92373, or online at hudspeth@ultrix.uor.edu. He is specially interested to hear of any rumors of hitherto uncovered Thoreau correspondence. He would also welcome any suggestions on who the "Vathek" might be that Ellery Channing mentions in his 5 March 1845 letter to Thoreau. Presumably this is the same Vathek that Margaret Fuller mentions in her 13 September 1843 letter to James and Sarah Clarke. Vathek wrote a two-part essay, "Femality," for Parke Godwin's *New York Pathfinder*.
- ✦ Members of the Walden Conservancy and other interested volunteers gathered at Walden Pond on 18 May to construct waterbars (pressure-treated wood steps) in a severely eroded section of trail near Thoreau's Cove.
- ✦ The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management's (DEM) archaeology consultants are working with an archaeobotanist to investigate the area believed to be Thoreau's beanfield. The archaeobotanist is analyzing the stumps remaining from trees planted by Thoreau on the site of the beanfield to confirm their age and determine their species (Thoreau had set out some white pines for Emerson). The team of experts is also testing for the presence of microscopic silica associated with bean plants, which would help confirm the location of the beanfield. At the conclusion of its study, the team plans to present DEM with a detailed survey showing the exact location and boundaries of Thoreau's beanfield.
- ✦ The DEM is also finalizing plans to reconstruct approximately 4,700 feet of eroded path and shoreline along the north and south shores of Walden Pond. Construction should begin in September 1996 and be completed by the end of November 1996, with planting and fencing to take place in the spring of 1997.
- ✦ The Walden Conservancy sponsored a sunrise ceremony in honor of Earth Day, 27 April, at Thoreau's Walden

house site. Flute music and readings from Thoreau's writings formed the core of the ceremony.

- ✦ From 2-29 April 1996 an exhibit of Walden Artworks was on display at the Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts in Concord. The exhibit was presented as part of the Emerson Umbrella's Musketaquid 1996 Earth Day program, which also included work from the Global Art Project. The theme of several of the events was "And this is my home, my native soil..." (Thoreau, 1851 *Journal*).
- ✦ Joe Moldenhauer writes that he has come across a novel about a Thoreau enthusiast, the action opening with the protagonist's injuring his head when he falls on the frozen surface of Walden Pond. It's a first novel: Todd McEwen, *Fisher's Hornpipe* (New York: Harper & Row, 1983).
- ✦ The Society's new membership rates, which will take effect for current members in 1999, are as follows:

Individual	\$35
Student	\$15
Family	\$50
Institutional	\$35
We ask that members outside the U.S. add \$15 (\$5 Canada and Mexico) to cover additional postage.	
Member/Donor Circles:	
Maine Woods	\$100
Cape Cod	\$250
Concord & Merrimack	\$500
Walden	\$1000
- ✦ Members who would like to subscribe to The Thoreau Society listserv may do so by sending their name and e-mail address to Bradley P. Dean at endeand@ecuvm.cis.ecu.edu.
- ✦ Members who come across Thoreau-related items of possible interest to other members of the Society, or members who have queries on Thoreau or the Society or any other relevant topic, are encouraged to send such items and queries to Thomas Harris (The Thoreau Society, Inc., 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773) for mention in future issues of this column.
- ✦ The Society's youngest new member, Harris Alexander Camilliere joined 1 June at the age of 1 day.

Additions to the Thoreau Bibliography



Thomas S. Harris

- Andrews, Joseph L., Jr. "Environmentalism Mecca Faces New Battle in Wake of 'Rescue.'" *New Hampshire Sunday News*, 25 November 1995.
- Asano, Belina. "Senate Votes to Support Thoreau Country Preservation." *Concord Journal*, 7 December 1995.
- Associated Press. "Thoreau's Mass. Birthplace Threatened by Development." *Baltimore Sun*, 3 March 1996, Nation section.
- Cooney, Joan. "Neither Nonresistance Nor Violence: Thoreau's Consistent Response to Social Evils." *Concord Saunterer* 3 (1995): 134-139.
- Daniel, Lucille. "Help Sought to Preserve Thoreau Birthplace." *Concord Journal*, 21 December 1995.
- Fahlander, Richard. "More Land Preserved Near Walden." *Concord Journal*, 29 February 1996.
- . "Society Names New Director." *Concord Journal*, 15 February 1996.
- . "Thoreau Institute Receives NEH Grant." *Concord Journal*, 25 January 1996.
- Gravett, Sharon L. "Carlyle's Demanding Companion: Henry David Thoreau." *Carlyle Studies Annual* 15 (1995): 21-31.
- Harding, Walter. "A Rambling History of the Thoreau Society." *Concord Saunterer* 3 (1995): 5-18.
- Higgins, Richard. "Thoreau Society Split Over Exclusive Nature of Institute." *Boston Globe*, 24 March 1996, Northwest and West sections.
- Huber, J. Parker. "John Muir and Thoreau's Maine." *Concord Saunterer* 3 (1995): 105-118.
- Johnson, Maria Miro. "Giving Thoreau a Thorough Trashing." *Providence (Rhode Island) Journal*, 4 July 1995.
- Knopper, Steve. "The Battle for Walden Woods." *Rolling Stone*, 18 April 1996, 23, 29.
- LaBastille, Anne. "Thoreau and the Woodswoman." *Concord Saunterer* 3 (1995): 21-33.

- Mali, Rebecca. "Group Tries to Preserve Thoreau's Birthplace." *Middlesex News*, 14 January 1996.
- Mendelson, Donna. "Tinker Creek and the Waters of Walden: Thoreauvian Currents in Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim*." *Concord Saunterer* 3 (1995): 51-62.
- O'Mara, Richard. "'This Could be Lost.'" *Baltimore Sun*, 14 April 1996, sec. J. On efforts to save Thoreau's birthplace.
- Schofield, Ed. "Thoreau Society Founder Dies at 78." *Concord Journal*, 18 April 1996.
- Smith, Harmon, D. "At Home with Lidian: Henry Thoreau in 1847-1848." *Concord Saunterer* 3 (1995): 35-48.
- Thoreau, Henry David. *Wood-Notes Wild: Walking with Thoreau*. Selected by Mary Kullberg. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press. 1995. 136pp.
- "Thoughts from Thoreau." *International Wildlife*, January/February 1996, 58.
- Walls, Laura Dassow. *Seeing New Worlds: Henry David Thoreau and Nineteenth Century Natural Science*. Madison: University of Wisconsin, 1995. 300pp.
- A study of Thoreau as a scientist. What

influence did nineteenth century science have on Thoreau and what influence did he have on it? The first of what inevitably will be many such studies to address these and related questions.

"Walter R. Harding, 79, Professor Whose Life's Work Was Thoreau." *New York Times*, 14 April 1996.

I am grateful to B. Dean, W. Harding, S. Harris, and B. Robbins for their contributions to this bibliography.

If I have missed any books, articles or other relevant material, please let me know. Send any additions or corrections (with a copy of each item, if possible) to Thomas S. Harris, The Thoreau Society, Inc., 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773.



Acknowledgements

The Society is grateful to the following for their generosity and support:

Maine Woods Circle

Jim Anderson
Robert Boyer
Jack Clymer
Lawrence Harding
Robert Hudspeth
Joseph Moldenhauer
Dean Niemeyer
Henry David Thoreau
Edward O. Wilson
Jeanne McNett &
Nicholas Athanassiou
Lorna & John Mack

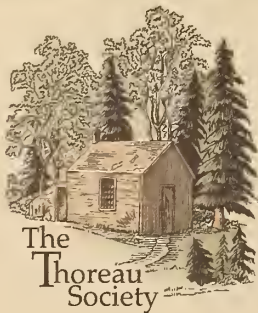
Cape Cod Circle

Bruce and Raven Wallace and Family

AUGUST KATAHDIN TRIP

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of Thoreau's September 1846 ascent of Mount Katahdin, The Thoreau Society is cooperating with Worcester attorney and Thoreau enthusiast Burton Chandler to arrange a visit to Maine's Baxter State Park and "Ktaadn" itself. Proposed activities include a lobster-and-clam dinner near the Chandler home in Ogunquit on Thursday 22 August, followed by a Friday drive to Millinocket for a two-day stay at local motels. After a Saturday climb of Katahdin (or park hiking and sightseeing), a restaurant dinner will include a talk by Baxter State Park officials. Participants may select some or all activities. For information contact Mr. Chandler at Seder & Chandler, 339 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608-1585; phone (508) 757-7721; fax (508) 798-1863 or (508) 831-0955.

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LINCOLN, MA
PERMIT NO. 61



The Thoreau Society
44 Baker Farm
Lincoln, MA 01773